

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

June 12, 2002

The Honorable Edward J. Markey  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515-2107

Dear Congressman Markey:

First, let me apologize for the lengthy delay in responding to your original letter of October 30. We have no record of having received it. I suspect it was lost in the mail due to the precautions taken at the White House last fall in response to the Anthrax attacks.

We are examining the issues raised in your letter related to the liquid natural gas (LNG) storage at the Distrigas LNG facility in your district in Everett, MA, and transportation (both maritime and land) to and from that facility. We have had an initial meeting with the Department of Transportation, and will be meeting with the DOT office of Research and Special Programs Administration (RSPA) and the Coast Guard again in a combined session later this week. RSPA has safety and security responsibilities for pipeline activities and hazardous materials transportation.

Our preliminary discussions have revealed that many of the initial responses provided to your questions by the Department of Transportation must be updated in light of additional security measures and precautions implemented in the past several months. We will provide that update, as well as a review and response to your original questions presented to my office.

Thank you for bringing this matter to my attention. I look forward to working with you on this and other homeland security initiatives.

Sincerely,



Governor Tom Ridge  
Homeland Security Advisor

*Ed,  
I am at a loss to explain  
the delay beyond the facts  
as we note in the letter. We  
will provide the update as quickly  
as possible.  
With best wishes, Tom*